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UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

**A METHOD OF HORMONE TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS WITH SYMPTOMS
CONSISTENT WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to hormone therapy as a treatment for
5 patients with symptoms consistent with multiple sclerosis.

Background

It is known that the levels of a variety of hormones drop substantially with age. These include human growth hormone, sex
10 hormones, pineal, adrenal, thyroid, and thymus hormones.

Hormonal replenishment methods employed as anti-aging treatments have been developed. An example of such method is described in U.S. Letters Patent No. 8,855,920. The utility of this method in connection with certain degenerative diseases, often
15 associated with hormonal deficiencies due to aging, is also known in the art.

In contrast, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is not a disease associated with degenerative conditions associated with old age. Rather, MS strikes mainly young adults and is the most common
20 neurologic cause of disability in that age group. Overall, MS affects approximately 300,000 Americans.

MS is thought to be an autoimmune illness, wherein the immune system mistakenly recognizes normal brain and spinal tissue as "foreign" and attacks them, resulting in inflammation

and damage. Myelin, the insulative material surrounding axons in nerve cells, are particularly affected by MS. In patients, the inflammation disrupts myelin, sometimes destroying the axons thus impeding the connections between nerve cells. The region 5 of demyelination and inflammation within the brain or spinal cord is called a "plaque" and ranges anywhere from millimeters to more than a centimeter in diameter.

Actual MS symptoms appear to reflect the number and severity of plaques as well as their location at important sites 10 within the nervous system. Mild sensory symptoms, e.g., tingling, burning, itching, may result. Typically, however, no diagnosis of MS is made until severe symptoms develop, such as weakness, paralysis or numbness of limbs, loss of vision, imbalance, chronic pain or chronic fatigue. The long term 15 consequences of MS can be very debilitating. In some studies, 50% of patients were disabled within ten years and fewer than two thirds were able to walk after thirty years.

In common diagnosis, MS is found by excluding all other potential conditions from consideration. Formerly diagnostic 20 chemical tests of cerebro-spinal fluid determined the presence of MS. This, however, has given way in recent years to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans of the brain as the preferred diagnostic method. Brain MRI scans are abnormal in the vast majority of MS victims. Areas of abnormal brightness,

suggesting increased water content, appear on "T2 weighted" scans; dark areas on "T1 weighted" scans suggest focal areas of tissue destruction; and abnormal brightness after a dye is injected for enhancement into the patient's bloodstream suggest 5 that inflammation has damaged the blood-brain barrier. Again, as these symptoms are present also in other neurologic conditions, the diagnosis of MS is not made from these symptoms alone. This diagnosis results by testing done over time.

Various drugs, including natural immune substances such as 10 beta-interferon, have proved effective in treating the physical symptoms of MS and reducing their frequency. Recently studies with animals employing induced experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), an animal model of MS, has shown that growth factor hormones, including Insulin-like Growth Factor 15 hormones (IGF) may promote myelin regeneration, reducing and sometimes eliminating inflammatory lesions and reducing other clinical deficits in EAE subjects. In one study adult female mice having induced EAE were injected subcutaneously with 0.6 mg of IGF over a ten day period. Another group of EAE-induced mice 20 were given placebos. Those treated with IGF-I exhibited reduced deficits and reduced numbers and sizes of inflammatory, demyelinating and demyelinated lesions.

SUMMARY

The invention relates to a hormone replenishment method employed as a treatment for subjects with symptoms consistent with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The method includes, in one 5 aspect, administering a regimen of human growth hormone (HGH) of less than 0.5 mg per day.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates the growth hormone decline in advancing years.

Figure 2 illustrates the free testosterone levels in males 5 throughout life.

Figure 3 illustrates the levels of estrogen and progesterone in females before and after menopause.

Figure 4 illustrates the melatonin levels produced throughout life.

10 **Figure 5** illustrates the DHEA levels for males and females over a life span.

Figure 6 illustrates the thyroid hormone levels versus age.

Figure 7 illustrates the thymus hormone levels versus age.

15 **Figure 8** presents the peak IGF-I levels in males before and after administration of IGF-I.

Figure 9 presents the peak IGF-I levels in females before and after administration of IGF-I.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The invention relates to a method useful in treating symptoms consistent with MS. In one embodiment, the method includes administering a regimen of doses of HGH of less than 5 0.5 mg per day. In another embodiment, the method includes determining that the level of human growth hormone and at least two supplemental hormones are below optimal or predetermined physiological levels for an adult human, and establishing a regimen for the replenishment of the level of the deficient 10 hormones to optimal or predetermined physiological levels. The supplemental hormones include the sex hormones, namely testosterone, progesterone, and estrogen, the melatonin hormone, the adrenal hormones, namely DHEA and pregnenolone, the thyroid hormone, and the thymus hormone.

15 One of the hormones that declines sharply with age is human growth hormone (HGH, GH, or somatotropin). **Figure 1** illustrates the growth hormone decline in years for an ordinary human.

HGH is a protein hormone secreted by the somatotropic cells of the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland. HGH secretes in a 20 pulsatile manner throughout a 24-hour period. The pulsatile diurnal output of growth hormone is modulated by a pair of inner synergistic hypothalamus hormones, the growth hormone releasing hormone (GHRH) and growth hormone inhibiting hormone (GHIH) or somatostatin. GHRH and GHIH are synthesized in the hypothalamus

and transported along with other messenger hormones to the pituitary gland by means of a short specialized portal vein network. GHRH is essentially a series of short pulses, clocked at about once a minute uniformly throughout a 24-hour day.

5 GHIH, on the other hand, is a "gatekeeper" that is normally abundant, but occasionally low, allowing pulses of growth hormone to be released from the pituitary gland into the bloodstream. The base line level of growth hormone, as far as serum concentration is concerned, is ordinarily at or below

10 detectable limits from hour to hour.

The major secretion of HGH occurs at night, one to two hours after the onset of deep REM sleep. Peak secretion levels are between 10-50 mg/ml.

It is known that physiological roles are probably due both 15 to direct actions of HGH and indirect actions mediated by the peptide hormones known as somatomedins. Somatomedins are stimulated predominantly by the action of HGH and include Insulin-like Growth Factor-I (also known as IGF-I and somatomedin-C) and IGF-II. The major site of somatomedin 20 secretions is the liver, but there is also some production at peripheral sites.

Proper human growth from infancy is contingent upon adequate growth hormone secretion. Growth hormone appears to affect the growth of virtually every organ and tissue in the

body. In normal development, HGH and the somatomedins are responsible for many manifestations of normal growth. Growth hormone deficiency during the childhood growing period is manifested by profound short stature. This deficiency has been 5 treated by human growth hormone supplements for many years. However, the scarcity of the source material for natural HGH (i.e., pituitary glands of cadavers) has limited investigations into other possible applications for HGH. Recently, bioengineered HGH or recombinant HGH has been developed with 10 identical characteristics as the natural HGH and removed the previous investigation limitations.

In 1990, a group of researchers published a report that showed that the declining activity of the IGF-I access with advancing age may contribute to the decrease in lean body mass 15 and the increase of mass of adipose tissue that occur with aging. "Effects Of Human Growth Hormone In Men Over 60 Years Old", Rudman, D., M.D., et al., The New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 323, No. 1, July 5, 1990. Subsequent studies have shown that growth hormone increases bone mass in 20 osteoporosis, reverses declining cardiac function, reverses declining pulmonary function, reverses the decline in immune function associated with aging, increases lean muscle mass, decreases the percentage of body fat, and increase the capacity for exercise. See Powrie, J. et al., "Growth Hormone Replacement

Therapy For Growth Hormone-Deficient Adults", Drugs Vol. 49, No. 5, pages 656-63, 1995; Rosén, T., et al., "Consequences Of Growth Hormone Deficiency In Adults And The Benefits And Risks Of Recombinant Human Growth Hormone Treatment", Horm. Rees.,

5 Vol. 43, pages 93-99, 1995; and Hoffman, A.R., "Growth Hormone Therapy In The Elderly: Implications For The Aging Brain", Psychoneuro-endocrinology, Vol. 17, No. 4, pages 327-33, 1992 (concluding that it is possible that chronic physiological GH and/or IGH-I replacement therapy might reverse or prevent some 10 of the inevitable sequelae of aging).

Optimal or predetermined physiological levels for the hormones included in replenishment as an embodiment of the method of the invention are set forth in Table I. These levels are set based upon the average peak levels for the hormones 15 which are present in adult humans at natural ages of optimal health, vigor and potency- usually in the second and third decades of the average life span.

Table I shows that the HGH is measured by the level of IGF-I. Serum levels of HGH are difficult to measure. IGF-I is 20 directly dependent upon the secretion of HGH by the pituitary gland, so therefore there is a direct linkage between increased secretion of HGH and increased production of IGF-I. Table II presents the effects of the low dose at high frequency human growth hormone administration (low dose-high frequency)

contemplated by the invention on IGF-I (somatomedin C) blood levels. **Figures 8** and **9** present the peak IGF-I levels in males and females, respectively, before and after administration of IGF-I. **Figures 8** and **9** show mean, minimum and maximum, and 25, 5 50, and 75 percentile for 204 males and 91 females, respectively. Table III shows the data presented in **Figure 8**. Table IV shows the data presented in **Figure 9**.

Table I

HORMONE	METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION	TARGET LEVEL ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ blood)
HGH	injection	IGF-I = 350
free testosterone	gel	female = 3 male = 40
progesterone	capsule	10-25
estrogen	capsule	100-200
melatonin	capsule	18-69 (at 3:00am)
DHEA	capsule	female = 400 male = 600
thyroid	tablet	T3 = 150-180
pregnenolone	capsule	100-200
thymus hormone	Sublingual powder	N/A

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Table II

Effects of Human Growth Hormone Administration
(low dose-high frequency) on Somatomedin C Blood Levels

Somatomedin C. Blood Levels (mg/ml)

	Before hGH	After hGH	Increase
Mean	238.8	384.5	61.0%
STDEV	62.3	50.8	
SEM	9.1	7.4	
No. Patients	47.0	47.0	
MAX	366.0	574.0	
MIN	132.0	301.0	

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Table III
Males

PEAK	IFG LEVELS	MALES		MALES	
		BEFORE	AFTER	CHANGE	DAYS
BEFORE	SAMPLE SIZE	MEAN	MEAN	MEAN	MEAN
BEFORE	204	192.3	266.7	74.4	118.5
AFTER	204	MEDIAN	MEDIAN	MEDIAN	MEDIAN
		183	272.5	75.5	82
		STDEV	STDEV	STDEV	STDEV
		61.7	75.1	73.2	110.3
		MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN
		21	63	-135	6
		25%ile	25%ile	25%ile	25%ile
		147	217	24	40
		50%ile	50%ile	50%ile	50%ile
		183	273	76	82
		75%ile	75%ile	75%ile	75%ile
		231	325	125	146
		MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX
		361	396	258	639

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Table IV
Females

PEAK	IFG LEVELS	FEMALES		FEMALES	
		SAMPLE SIZE	BEFORE	AFTER	CHANGE
BEFORE	91		162.2	236.3	74.0
AFTER	91		MEDIAN	MEDIAN	MEDIAN
			154	240	72
			STDEV	STDEV	STDEV
			61.5	75.1	73.6
			SEM	SEM	SEM
			6.4	5.9	4.8
			MIN	MIN	MIN
			41	52	-93
			25%ile	25%ile	25%ile
			111	177	26
			50%ile	50%ile	50%ile
			164	240	72
			75%ile	75%ile	75%ile
			205	294	128
			MAX	MAX	MAX
			311	378	231
					534

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The method of determining the level of the select group of hormones may be accomplished by a simple blood test. A patients' blood is evaluated for the hormone levels of the select group of hormones and those levels are compared to the 10 optimal or predetermined physiological levels set forth in Table I. Based on the comparison of a patient's hormone levels with the optimal or predetermined physiological levels, a regimen is established for the patient for the replenishment of the level of deficient hormones to optimal physiological levels. It is 15 further contemplated, that after the initial evaluation and the establishment of the regimen, a patient is monitored every 30

days, by a similar blood test, until the patient attains the optimal or predetermined physiological level, and the dosages of hormone supplementation are adjusted accordingly. Once the target levels are established, the regimen directs that the

5 patient continue to follow the established dosage of supplemental hormones indefinitely to maintain the optimal or predetermined physiological levels. Periodic blood tests are subsequently administered to assure that the optimal or predetermined physiological levels are maintained.

10 The optimal or predetermined physiological level of HGH and the supplemental hormones are set forth in Table I. These levels recognize the importance of each hormone to the body and are based on studies that indicate the period of life when the individual hormones are at their peak in the human body --
15 generally in the second and third decade of an average human life span.

The method of the invention also contemplates that the HGH is administered in keeping with the way the pituitary secretes HGH naturally. The low dose-high frequency method mimics the
20 pituitary gland. The pituitary secretes HGH 24 hours a day, with the peaks during the first two hours of sleep. The method contemplates that the patients take lower doses more frequently to try to mimic the natural rhythm of the body as much as possible. The invention contemplates that the patients take HGH

injections at least twice daily. A preferred regimen calls for subcutaneous injections of doses less than 0.5 mg per day (approximately 1-3 I.U.), administered twice daily. Typical doses for this regimen range from 4 units per week to 8 units 5 per week.

Because the invention contemplates that human growth hormone is administered in lower doses that mimic the natural rhythm of the body, the invention contemplates that the patient experiences none of the adverse side effects reported in earlier 10 studies when higher pharmacological doses were given to patients more intermittently, e.g., 3 days per week.

Aside from the administration of HGH the invention contemplates therapeutic application of supplemental hormones. The supplemental hormones include the sex hormones, namely 15 testosterone, progesterone, and estrogen, the melatonin hormone, the adrenal hormones, namely DHEA and pregnenolone, the thyroid hormone, and the thymus hormone. Dosage for administration of the supplemental hormones varies with the particular hormone.

The optimal or predetermined physiological level goal in 20 testosterone replacement therapy in men is to maintain a total testosterone level at about 900-1200 μ g/ml and a free testosterone level of about 30-40 μ g/ml throughout one's lifetime. **Figure 2** illustrates the free testosterone level in males throughout life and shows the level decreasing with

advancing age. In women, the levels of testosterone to maintain are much less, specifically women should maintain a free testosterone level of about 3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$.

Possible side effects which can occur during testosterone replacement include some weight gain due to accumulation of lean body mass, fluid retention, and among patients taking supraphysiologic doses of androgens: decreased testicular size, azoospermia, and acne.

Figure 3 illustrates the levels of estrogen and progesterone in females before and after menopause. As noted above, candidates for supplemental estrogen or progesterone should replenish these hormones concurrently to avoid the risk of side effects. These hormones may be taken in capsule form. The optimal or predetermined target physiological level of progesterone is 10-25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ blood, and of estrogen is 100-200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ blood.

Figure 4 illustrates the melatonin levels produced throughout life. The optimal or predetermined target physiological level of melatonin is 18-69 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ determined by the average level of melatonin produced by a healthy young adult (i.e., 20-25 years). Further, melatonin supplementation has been shown to be completely harmless to the body and cause no side effects.

As noted above, the amount of the adrenal hormone DHEA peaks in the bloodstream of an individual at about 25 years of age. In one embodiment, **Figure 5** illustrates the DHEA levels for males and females over a typical life span. It is the peak physiological level that, in one embodiment, is the goal of the DHEA replenishment therapy. The optimal or predetermined physiological level of DHEA in a female is 400 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ blood and in a male is 600 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ blood.

The serum level of pregnenolone for normal adults ranges between 50 to 350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of blood. If a person's level is low and falls outside of this range, replacement is recommended. Depending on the degree to which a patient may be deficient, the dose is approximately 100-200 milligrams ("mg") each day. The older or less healthy a person is, the more likely he or she will feel a dramatic effect from pregnenolone. A blood test is required to determine each individual's need for pregnenolone replacement, and to assess the proper dosage for therapy.

Maintaining sufficient thyroid hormone levels is also beneficial. **Figure 6** illustrates thyroid hormone levels versus age. Supplementation with thyroid hormone, particularly T-3 to 150-180 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of blood is contemplated by the invention.

Figure 7 illustrates thymus hormone level versus age.

Laboratory results indicate that the presence of thymus hormone in circulation can have an effect on a variety of other organ

systems. All four thymic preparations (*i.e.*, thymosin, thymulin, THF, and thymopoietin) are commercially available.

Such a replacement therapy is totally harmless. The Food and Drug Administration has not regulated thymic hormones because

5 they are not yet considered drugs or pharmaceuticals. Thymus hormone is in the same status and classification as DHEA and melatonin hormones which are also available over the counter.

By maintaining the optimal or predetermined physiological levels of human growth hormone and the supplemental hormones

10 described above, the treatment is effective for reducing symptoms commonly associated with MS. As noted in the Background of the Invention section, diagnosis of MS is by exclusion, *i.e.*, all other alternative diagnoses of a demyelinating condition must be ruled out before a diagnosis of 15 MS may be established. The following case studies of patients with demyelinating conditions demonstrated from testing are illustrative of the effectiveness of the invention in patients with symptoms consistent with MS:

20 Case 1: (43 year old male).

An MRI of the brain during the first exam in 1995 revealed multiple white matter signal abnormalities as well as subtle diffuse signal abnormalities consistent with MS. Soon after this test, the patient was placed on a hormone replenishment

regimen, featuring twice daily subcutaneous doses of human growth hormone in the amount of 0.5 mg. per dose. Testosterone, melatonin, DHEA, thyroid, pregnenolone, and thymus hormone were also given in the manner previously described to optimal levels.

5 A later exam in 1998 noted significant diminishment of lesions, including the actual disappearance from the MRI scan of lesions. The examining physician noted that the previously noted large left middle cerebellar peduncle lesion was very subtle on the current film and was initially interpreted as

10 normal. There was also a small lesion in the anterior limb of the internal capsule seen on the 1995 study which is not currently visualized. Finally, the examining physician noted that there was a right posterior frontal deep white matter lesion that was slightly smaller than previously noted in 1995

15 with the remaining lesions noted from the 1995 examination remaining essentially unchanged. Brain evoked response studies also indicate improvement in speed of neurotransmission after this treatment. For example, visual evoked responses may reveal optic nerve involvement by MS. Studies of the patient's visual

20 evoked responses before and after hormone replenishment therapy revealed faster conduction speed after the therapy, indicating improvement in the optic nerve. The patient also regained complete motor strength and sensory disturbances disappeared.

Case 2: (Female 60 years of age):

Brain MRI scan taken in 1993 revealed multiple punctate foci of increased signal intensity on T2 weighted images in the corona radiata and basal ganglia and thalami, compatible with 5 the presence of multiple lacunar infarcts (areas of necrotic tissue). The test also revealed lesions in the deep cerebral structures involving white matter and a lesion in the right side pons was observed to be approximately 1.0 cm in size. The conclusion by the examining physician was "thought extensive 10 widespread infarcts could account for all the above described findings, the patient's age and sex makes this somewhat less likely and a demyelinating process, such as multiple sclerosis must be considered. Certainly this diagnosis could account for all the abnormal findings seen."

15 In January of 1995, with no observed changes in her condition, the patient initiated hormone replenishment treatment including subcutaneous injection twice daily of 0.5 mg Human Growth Hormone, as well as supplemental hormones such as progesterone, estrogen, DHEA, melatonin and pregnenolone in 20 doses previously described.

In October 1995 a further brain MRI showed the pontine lesion to decrease in size to approximately 0.4 cm (surrounded by a crescentric margin of subtle enhancement). With respect to other white matter foci, none showed abnormal enhancement. The

examining physician concluded that the degree of enhancement had subsided considerably, as had the size of the individual pontine lesion. She also fully regained her motor strength and recovered from sensory disturbances.

5 The above case histories indicate that hormone replenishment and supplementation is effective at reducing the symptoms associated with MS. HGH administration, given in a low dose, high frequency regimen is believed particularly to be effective at reducing the symptoms of MS.

10 In the foregoing specification, the invention has been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments thereof. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention as set forth 15 in the appended claims. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.